



# Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission Report

**TO: HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS**

**DATE: May 22, 2006**

**ITEM NO:**

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON THE CONCEPT OF INSTALLING A UNIVERSAL PLAYGROUND IN DESIGNATED CITY PARKS**

## **ISSUE:**

The Commission on Disabilities has met with Parks, Recreation and Community Services staff to explore the possibility of including a Universal Playground at a city park. The purpose for this meeting is to bring both commissions together to discuss the concept and develop a strategy for implementation.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the commissions:

1. Support the concept of providing a universal playground at a designated city park.
2. Establish a committee comprised of four to six members from both commissions to meet periodically to provide input on the design and receive updates on the status of the project.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has been working to make all playgrounds accessible to children with disabilities in accordance to ADA standards. The Department has been replacing sand in the playgrounds with rubberized surface for wheelchair accessibility along with some playground equipment features for children with disabilities. Even though these playgrounds are accessible they offer very limited use for children with disabilities.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services staff has met with the Commission on Disabilities to explore the possibility of constructing a Universal playground at a city park that could be fully utilized by all children. This would provide children with disabilities with a venue that is fully accessible where they can play and interact with all the other children that use the playground. The design of the equipment would take into account issues children with disabilities experience when using our current parks. Some of the features that could be incorporated into the design of the playground include ramps on the equipment to allow for wheelchair access, water features, swings that can accommodate a wheelchair, raised sandboxes and walls with raised reliefs and sounds that children with vision impediments could feel and hear.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department currently has funds appropriated for playground equipment replacement at various park sites. The cost for this equipment is slightly higher than the traditional playground, which may require some fundraising for the project. Staff is also looking at possible grant opportunities.

Submitted by:

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